



JOY HOFMEISTER
STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Joy Hofmeister

DATE: January 28, 2021

SUBJECT: Statutory Waiver Concerning Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education Programs.

The following schools are requesting a statutory waiver of 70 O.S. § 1210.568, which requires them to enter into a cooperative agreement with another school district if enrollment in their alternative education program is less than ten (10) students. Approval is recommended.

County	District	Waiver Year (Total)
Rogers	Sequoyah	3 of 3

* The number in the County category represents the Congressional District.
See the attached map.

Ab
Attachments

Section 915. Alternative Education Programs - Statewide System.

A. Beginning with the first semester of the 1996-1997 school year, the State Board of Education shall implement a statewide system of alternative education programs which shall be phased-in within seven (7) years. The statewide system shall include but not be limited to Alternative Approaches grant programs, funded pursuant to Section 1210.561 of this title, and alternative academies or alternative programs implemented pursuant to this section.

B. Beginning with the first semester of the 2002-2003 school year, all school districts of this state shall provide alternative education programs that conform to the requirements of statutes and rules applicable to alternative education. A program shall:

1. Allow class sizes and student/teacher ratios which are conducive to effective learning for at-risk students;
2. Incorporate appropriate structure, curriculum, and interaction and reinforcement strategies designed to provide effective instruction;
3. Include an intake and screening process to determine eligibility of students;
4. Demonstrate that teaching faculty are appropriately licensed or certified teachers;
5. Demonstrate that teaching faculty have been selected on the basis of a record of successful work with at-risk students or personal and educational factors that qualify them for work with at-risk students;
6. Reflect appropriate collaborative efforts with state agencies and local agencies serving youth;
7. Provide courses that meet the academic curricula standards adopted by the State Board of Education and additional remedial courses;
8. Offer individualized instruction;
9. State clear and measurable program goals and objectives;
10. Include counseling and social services components with the provision that providers of services are not required to be certified as school counselors;
11. Require a plan leading to graduation be developed for each student in the program which will allow the student to participate in graduation exercises for the school district after meeting the requirements of the school district as specified in the individual graduation plan for that student; provided, for students who enter the ninth grade in or prior to the 2007-08 school year, the plan shall specifically address whether the student is required to meet the graduation requirements established in Section 11-103.6 of this title;
12. Offer life skills instruction;
13. Provide opportunities for arts education to students, including Artists in Residence programs coordinated with the Oklahoma Arts Council;
14. Provide a proposed annual budget;
15. Include an evaluation component including an annual written self-evaluation;
16. Be appropriately designed to serve middle school, junior high school and secondary school students in grades six through twelve who are most at risk of not completing a high school education for a reason other than that identified in Section 13-101 of this title; and
17. Allow students in the alternative education program, who otherwise meet all of the participation requirements, to participate in vocational programs and extracurricular activities, including but not limited to athletics, band, and clubs.

C. The alternative education program of a school district shall be operational and serving students by September 15 of each school year.

D. Each alternative education program of a school district shall receive funding based on the combined number of dropouts and students within the district who have been referred to a county juvenile service unit, a county juvenile bureau or who have been committed to the custody of the Office of Juvenile Affairs. Each alternative education program shall receive incentive funding as follows:

1. For the first year of operation, One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per student;

2. For the second year of operation, Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) per student; and
3. For the third year of operation and each year thereafter, Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) per student.

Statewide alternative education funding shall not be used to supplant existing school district resources or to support programs that do not meet all the criteria for the statewide alternative education system. No alternative education program shall receive less than a total of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per school year.

E. By September 15 of each school year, all statewide alternative education funds received and expended for students participating in an alternative education program shall be reported to the State Department of Education by major object codes and by program classifications pursuant to the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System as adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 5-135 of this title.

F. Elementary school districts, as defined in Section 5-103 of this title, may request a waiver from the State Board of Education from the requirements of this section to implement and provide an alternative education program. Any elementary school district that has not received funding pursuant to the provisions of subsection D of this section shall be automatically granted a waiver. If a school district is granted a waiver, no statewide alternative education funding shall be allocated to the district.

G. 1. The State Board of Education shall contract for technical assistance for operation of an Alternative Education Technical Assistance Center. The technical assistance provider shall be an entity located in Oklahoma that has been officially recognized by the United States Department of Education to assess and facilitate dissemination of validated educational programs in Oklahoma. The technical assistance provider shall have priority, if its operations are deemed satisfactory by the State Board of Education and if funds are available, for annual renewal of the contract.

2. The duties of the technical assistance provider shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- a. providing initial and ongoing training of personnel who will educate at-risk populations through alternative education programs,
- b. providing technical assistance to school districts to enhance the probability of success of their alternative education programs,
- c. evaluating state-funded alternative education programs,
- d. reporting to the State Board of Education the evaluation results of state-funded alternative education programs, and
- e. providing in-depth program analysis and evaluation of state-funded alternative education programs.

3. The State Board of Education shall not provide funding to an alternative education program that does not receive a recommendation for continued funding in the evaluation provided for in this subsection. Provided, any school district not receiving such a recommendation for continued funding may request a hearing before the Board with a review of the evaluation prior to the Board's final determination.

H. All alternative education programs shall be subject to statutes and rules applicable to alternative education, including any exemptions from statutory or regulatory requirements authorized by statutes or rule.

I. An alternative education program may be offered by an individual school district or may be offered jointly by school districts that have formed interlocal cooperative agreements pursuant to Section 5-117b of this title. Any school district submitting a plan for an alternative education program serving fewer than ten students shall enter into a cooperative agreement with another school district to jointly provide the program unless the program has been granted a waiver from this requirement by the State Board of Education.

J. Any materials or equipment purchased by a school district with revenue received for students participating in an alternative education program shall be used only in or directly for the alternative education program offered by the district or any subsequent alternative education program offered to students enrolled in that district. Such materials and equipment shall be made available exclusively to alternative education students during the hours that the alternative education program is operating; provided, the material or equipment may be used for other purposes when the alternative education program is not operating.

K. Upon implementation of this subsection as provided for in subsection M of this section and contingent upon the provision of appropriated funds designated for such purpose, all school districts in the state providing alternative education programs as required in subsection B of this section shall expand the programs to include middle-school-grade students. The program shall conform to the requirements of subsection B of this section.

L. Upon implementation of this subsection as provided for in subsection M of this section and contingent upon the provision of appropriated funds designated for such purpose, each urban school district identified by the State Department of Education as having a high population of elementary grade students who are at-risk and in need of alternative education shall provide elementary level alternative education programs. The State Department of Education shall establish requirements for the programs. For purposes of this section, "urban school district" means a school district with an average daily membership of thirty thousand (30,000) or more.

M. Implementation of subsections K and L of this section shall be delayed until the current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for the 1998-99 school year or any school year thereafter for Oklahoma, as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics annually in the Digest of Education Statistics, reaches at least ninety percent (90%) of the regional average expenditure for that same year, and funds are provided. For purposes of this subsection, the regional average expenditure shall consist of the current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for each of the following states: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, averaged together. By January 1 of each year, the State Board of Education shall report whether or not the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached based on information reported annually in the Digest of Education Statistics by the National Center for Education Statistics. Subsections K and L of this section shall be implemented on July 1 after the first January 1 report verifies that the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached and funds have been provided for the specific purposes of this section.

(70-1210.568)

[illegible]

Oklahoma House of Representatives, GIS Office

SCHOOL SITE STATUTORY WAIVER/DEREGULATION APPLICATION
for 20 20 - 20 21 school year

ROGERS COUNTY SEQUOYAH PUBLIC SCHOOL SCHOOL DISTRICT
16441 S 4180 ROAD SCHOOL DISTRICT MAILING ADDRESS CLAREMORE CITY 74017 ZIP CODE

HIGH SCHOOL NAME OF SITE

[Signature] PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE* _____ DATE _____

PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE* _____ DATE _____

PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE* _____ DATE _____

TERRY M. SAUL SUPERINTENDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TERRY.SAUL@SEQUOYAH EAGLES.NET SUPERINTENDENT E-MAIL ADDRESS

[Signature] SUPERINTENDENT SIGNATURE* _____ DATE _____

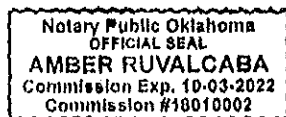
I hereby certify that this waiver/deregulation application was approved by our local board of education at the meeting on OCTOBER 12, 2020

[Signature] BOARD PRESIDENT SIGNATURE*

NOTARY SEAL →

Amber Ruvalcaba NOTARY 10/12/2020 DATE

10/3/2022 COMMISSION EXPIRATION DATE



Statute/Oklahoma Administrative Code to be Waived:
(specify statute or OAC (deregulation) number; (see instructions))

*Original signatures are required. The attached questionnaire must be answered to process.**

THE WAIVER/DEREGULATION IS REQUESTED FOR:

☒ One Year Only

☐ Three Years*

*Please see instruction page for additional requirements for a three year request

SDE USE ONLY

PROJECT YEARS

2 of 2

ENROLLMENT

320 High School

215 Jr./Middle High

1004 Elementary

1239 District Total

10/12/2020 DATE RECEIVED

70 O.S. 1210.568

OAC _____

Coop Agreement NAME OF WAIVER

- A. Reason for the Waiver request. Please include distance from your alternative education site to the closest possible district to coop with, what alternative means will have to be employed if your waiver was to be denied, and what percentage of your student population will benefit from the waiver if approved.

Sequoyah Public School recently fell below the required student count of 10 to 9 in our Alternative Education program. We have experienced a loss of district-wide student enrollment for the last 5 years, but feel like we will be able to increase the student count to the required AL number in the near future. In order to coop with another district, students would have to travel over 15 miles each way.

- B. List alternate strategies/plans which the district/site proposes, and how this plan will best serve the students of your district, i.e., a description of the educational benefits to the students, graduation rate if a waiver has been awarded prior to this year, and learning achievement.

Sequoyah Public School has had a successful AL program for over 15 years in a stand-alone model and will continue to have the same educational and career seeking opportunities for our AL students in the future. Our goal of increasing student count will be centered on a more thorough "search and find" process. We will begin to do a better job of screening potential students and receiving information from our classroom teachers as we look to grow our program

- C. Have you participated in an alternative education coop previously? Have you been awarded this waiver before and what was the educational impact to the district: Results of the Statutory Waiver, i.e., effect on student performance levels, impact of plan on other sites in the district.

Sequoyah Schools has not participated in an alternative education coop.

- D. Timeline: Please submit class schedule, calendars, assessment forms and other attachments as necessary.

Students work independently on courses assigned by the Alternative Education teacher. The teacher works independently with the students as needed. The Alternative Education Program follows the same calendar as all other Sequoyah Public School programs.

- E. Any financial impact to the District (positive or negative) for the proposed waiver/deregulation? If positive please describe where the available would be reallocated.

The Alternative Education funding for Sequoyah Public School will decrease slightly due to the loss of 1 HS student in the program, but the district has committed the necessary funding over the past 15 years to have a successful program and the district support will continue.

- F. Describe method of assessment or evaluation of effectiveness of the plan both for staff and students, I.E., TLE, ACT scores, graduation rates, RSA, School Report Card, etc.

Graduation rates and state testing scores (or ACT) are used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

**** You will be contacted if more information is needed to process this request.**

Sequoyah Public Schools

16441 S. 4180 Road • Claremore, OK 74017-2316 • (918) 341-5472 • Fax (918) 341-5764
Terry M. Saul, Superintendent (918) 341-5472

October 13, 2020

Alternative Education Division
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 112
Oklahoma City OK 73105

Alternative Education,

Sequoyah Public School (I006-66) is requesting consideration for an Alternative Education Statutory Waiver of alternative school coop agreements. Sequoyah Public School has had an Alternative Education program for over 15 years. This program has been successful in many areas including, student graduation, student immersion back to mainstream school day, career tech placement of students and student job placement.

Due to a decline in overall student enrollment grades 6-12 in our school district over the past 5 years, we have seen a slight decline in our Alternative Education student number and recently drop below the required student count of 10. The school district is assessing its current student population and taking Alternative Education placement referrals, as well as doing a more thorough "search and find" effort within our student population. Sequoyah Public School has always been able to maintain the minimum student count in the past and looks forward to meeting those guidelines with the waiver criteria.

Sequoyah Public School seeks to be proactive in this process, therefore, we are requesting a 1-year Alternative Education coop agreement statutory waiver. 70 O.S. § 1210.568 (Coop Agreement)

Sequoyah Public School would like to thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or clarification that may be needed.

Sincerely,



Dr. Terry M. Saul
Superintendent

Come Soar With Us